

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

DPW-01 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 SY-05 FBIE-00

SCA-01 VO-03 /083 W

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P R 040855Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5415

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2084

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 2084 VICE 2804)

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SREF, AS, VN

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN RELIEF ACTIVITIES FOR SOUTH VIETNAM

1. WITH REGARD TO FAST BREAKING DEVELOPMENTS IN VIETNAM, DFA SECRETARY ALAN RENOUF TOLD ME APRIL 4 THAT GOVERNMENT ANTICIPATES MAJOR CLASH WITH OPPOSITION WHEN PARLIAMENT RECONVENES APRIL 8. OPPOSITION WILL TAX GOVERNMENT WITH NOT HAVING DONE ALL IT SHOULD IN HELPING SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE IN HOSTMSF TRIAL AND WITH HAVING NEGLECTED AUSTRALIA'S DEFENSES. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MALCOLM FRASER, LEADER OF OPPOSITION, MAY EVEN CALL FOR BREAKING RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM IN VIEW OF ITS MASSIVE VIOLATIONS OF PARIS ACCORDS. RENOUF REMARKED THAT GOVERNMENT CAN POINT TO GOOD RECORD OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO SOUTH VIETNAM WHICH INCLUDES DEPLOYMENT OF 7 C-130'S
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MOVING RELIEF SUPPLIES, ACCEPTANCE OF 496 VIETNAMESE

ORPHANS FOR ADOPTION IN AUSTRALIA, CONTRIBUION OF A\$1 MILLION TO UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, AND LAUNCHING MAJOR PUBLIC APPEAL ON APRIL 3 FOR FUNDS TO ASSIST VIETNAMESE REFUGEES.

2. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO RENOUF, GOA IN QUANDRY AS TO WHAT ITS POLICIES SHOULD BE WITH REGARD TO ACCEPTING VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA. CRITERIA, NOW UNDER DISCUSSION IN FONOFF, LIKELY TO FOCUS ON THOSE VIETNAMESE WHO HAVE HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH AUSTRALIA. FONOFF ALSO CONCERNED OVER ANTICIPATED REQUESTS FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE FOR DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM IN SAIGON. LATTER ISSUE COMPLICATED BY FONMIN WILLESEE'S RECENT INITIATIVES IN UN TO ENCOURAGE NATIONS TO BE GENEROUS IN ACCEPTING THOSE SEEKING DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: RENOUF WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE USG VIEWS ON HANDLING OF REFUGEE REQUESTS AND ON DIPLOMATIC ASYLUM.

4. RENOUF SAID THAT RAAF C-130'S NOW OPERATING ON HUMANITARIAN RELIEF MISSIONS OUT OF BUTTERWIRTH BASE IN MALAYSIA MAY HAVE TO BE MOVED TO DARWIN. MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT IS INISTING ON PRIOR CLEARANCE FOR ALL FLIGHTS. MALAYSIAN AIR FORCE HAS WARNED RAAF THAT THEIR PLANES MAY BE SUBJECTED TO ROCKET ATTACK FROM LEFTIST ELEMENTS. ALREADY THERE HAVE BEEN INCIDENTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST THE C-130'S (LETTING AIR OUT OF TIRES AND DRAINING FUEL FROM TANKS).
GREEN

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